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BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,
OFFICE OF DRY LAND AGRICULTURE.

Washington, D. C., June 29, 1914.

REPORT UP TO AND WEEK ENDING JUNE 20, 1914.

AMARILLO: "Hot weather with little wind prevailed the greater part of the week, and this has caused the small grains to mature very rapidly. Harvesting started on the 17th, and all the winter wheat is now in the shock; that on summer tilled land producing 90 sheaves to the plat. Barley and oats will be ready to harvest in a few days, while spring wheat is beginning to color. Corn has made a vigorous growth, but the continual dry weather is causing the soil to dry out very rapidly. Most of the weeds have been eradicated with a hoe. The roads were mowed. On account of the demand for teams the second cultivation of D.L.A. plats has been delayed.

"On the 16th I accompanied the local County Demonstrator on a trip 12 miles south of town, and we found most of the farmers planting some of the sorghum crops. Every one complained of the poor germination of feterita. Very few of them are ahead of the weeds, and many of them have great quantities of Johnson grass to contend with. As most of them have about twice as much land in cultivation as they can properly handle, it is very doubtful if they will be able to catch up with their work. Listing is the prevailing practice with row crops. I saw only a small amount of small grain, and none of it was as good as what we have on the station. Maximum temperature 94, minimum 55, precipitation .06".

ARCHER: "Nearly everything on the station has made very rapid growth this week, the weather having been the warmest on record this season. On the 14th .67 inches of rain and hail fell in 10 minutes, and shattered the wide leaved plants, such as corn, oats and some varieties of barley quite badly, but no permanent damage was done.

"On the 16th the annual "Farmers Roundup" was held here by the State Farm Board, with between 150 and 200 people in attendance. The crops were inspected and the objects of the work pointed out. A few talks were made by men interested in real estate in this section, and the good points of the country and certain crops pointed out. A lunch of sandwiches, pickles, cheese and coffee was served at the noon hour with a dessert of cigars for the men. A representative of the State Farm Board made a talk on the wonderful results obtained from the use of silage as a feed for the dairy herd on this station, but no original figures were given to justify the statements made.

"The brome and alfalfa on Rotations 41 and 42 was cut on the 18th as it was drying out badly, although it had made poor growth. The 9 acre field of winter rye for the forage and the sweet clover plats were cut on the 17th and 18th. Winter wheat is heading and barley is in the boot. Spring wheat and oats are jointing and corn is making rapid growth. Maximum temperature for the week 90, minimum 46, and precipitation 74.

AKRON: "All crops are making a fine growth. Winter wheat, barley, and oats have headed and spring wheat is heading. The soil was too wet to work the first two days of the week and no cultivating was done. The remainder of the week has been spent in cultivating and plowing summer fallow. Mr. Smith, from the Denver office of the Forest Service, visited the station on Wednesday. Precipitation for the week 2.50 in., maximum temperature 91, minimum 49. The precipitation for the week fell during Sunday night. Some washing occurred and there was some run off during the greater part was being taken in to the soil.

ARDMORE: "Maximum temperature 97, minimum 52, total precipitation for the week .85 in. As slight as the rain was during the week it has materially improved crop conditions. All spring grain is growing nicely now, but there is very little water stored up in the soil. We must have frequent rains from now on to insure even a fair crop.

"BELLEFOURCHE: "The small grains made good growth during the week. The oats are all headed out and the wheat is beginning to head. The barley after disced corn and after fallow has headed, but it is doubtful if the rest of the plats will head at all unless rain comes soon. All plats of small grain following small grain are short and are beginning to suffer. On all other methods of cultivation another good rain will insure a fair crop.

"The alfalfa on rotation 42, and the clover on rotation 11 was weighed on the 19th. The alfalfa plats averaged 1310 lbs. per acre and the clover 1140. Sweet clover on rotations 31-43 was plowed under on the 20th. The sweet clover had made a fairly vigoro us growth and there were enough weeds in the plats, so that there was quite a heavy growth to plow under. Corn is now beginning to grow rapidly, that on fall plowing having as usual a slight advantage over that on spring plowing. The small grain plats for soil moisture work under irrigation were irrigated on the 19th. Maximum temperature for week 93, minimum 50, precipitation .25 in.

COLBY: Unusually good growing weather has prevailed during the last few days. On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday it rained and since then it has been comparatively hot and sultry with scarcely a breeze most of the time. Cherries and mulberries at the station are ripening very nicely. Corn is about eight inches high. The milo and kafir plats were replanted this week, as the first planting failed to grow. Sweet clover and alfalfa sown this spring made excellent stands and are about six inches high. Barley and oats are heading. Winter wheat harvest will begin before another week has gone. Maximum temperature 93, minimum 56, evaporation 1.52, precipitation 1.02", maximum wind velocity per hour for 24 hour period 9.3 miles.

DALHART: "All of the small grain plats are fully headed and have been for the past week but a number of them have begun to show signs of suffering from drought. All of the cultivated crops, including a few of the milo and kafir plats that were replanted, are growing nicely and a good stand has been obtained. Weeds are becoming very troublesome. All of the stone and carpenter work on the bunk house has been finished but some delay has been experienced by not being able to get a plumber or plaster for the job, there being neither in town.

DICKINSON: "Weather conditions for the week have been for the most part cool with occasional showers. The maximum temperature was 78 and the minimum 42. The total precipitation for the week was .24 in. but during the twenty-four hours just following the completion of the week there fell 1.30 inches, making the total for June up to date 5.34 inches. The normal for June is 2.81. Haying operations were commenced during the week but rains prevented much headway. It is hoped that the next week will see most of the cultivated hay crops out of the way. Alfalfa and brome are making a very fine appearance and will no doubt yield heavily.

EDGELEY: "The past week has been quite cool with two light showers. Some hay was cut on the station on the 12th and has not been dry enough to haul to the barn yet. The alfalfa plats were cut Thursday morning but have not sufficiently cured to take into the windrow until this afternoon. The plats fallow L and N of the MC wheat series were plowed Tuesday and all the corn has been cultivated once and hoed during the week. At the present time the spring plowed plats of the MC small grains are much better than the fall plowed plats, the most marked difference being with the barley. The rye for green manure has headed and the barley is shooting and nearly ready to head. Maximum temperature 74, minimum 36, precipitation .67 in.

GARDEN CITY: "The past week has been rather warm with the first suggestion of hot winds. The maximum temperature was 99 and the minimum 58. One inch of rain fell in three little showers. All the winter wheat has been cut. In appearance the plats differed quite a bit. In appearance the best plats were winter wheat on rye green manure and on fallow in a four year rotation although the other fallows followed closely. The heads were very short and in some cases on the poorer plats did not fill at all.

"The spring grains are in full head. The barley is beginning to turn but the wheat and oats are not changing color at all. There is very little difference in the growth of the spring grains on the plats but the spring treated plats do not have as good a stand as the fall treated ones.

"The corn is growing rapidly. No difference can be noted as yet on any of the plats. The fallow plat is as rank and green as any of the others and has not at any time showed signs of falling behind.

"The principle work that is being done at present is cutting weeds on the various plats and in the roads and alleys. One and two men have been kept busy on different parts of the station hoeing out weeds that could not be gotten with cultivators.

MANDAN: Work during the past week has consisted principally of cultivating and weeding the various crops. All the roads, alleys, and cultivated crops were given a thorough cultivation. Breaking has been continued with two four-horse teams the greater part of the week, about twenty-five acres having been broken to date. A few tons of upland hay were put in the mow. Hay will be plentiful this season on account of the abundance of rain. One of the brick partition walls in the basement of the seed-house has been constructed. The first-floor joists are being cut. All crops are in excellent condition. Precipitation .19", maximum temperature 79, minimum 39.

HAYS: "The weather during the week has been warmer and less windy than usual. Maximum 99, minimum 57, precipitation first of the week 1.40 inches. Winter wheat ripening very rapidly. All other crops continue making normal growth. Work during the first two days of the week consisted mainly in killing stray weeds by pulling and hoeing. Since then the work has been soil moisture sampling, and cultivation of inter-tilled crops. It is a very busy time just now at our station. I presume the same is true though at most of the stations. The winter wheat on the project will all be ready for harvest by Monday, some of the plats are now ready. Dean Jardine, of the State Agricultural College, visited the station today.

HETTINGER: "Favorable conditions for crop growth still continue but the corn has not made nearly so good a growth as have the other crops. There has been plenty of moisture in the soil and at the present time the oats are heading. The spring rye which was seeded for green manure is headed and that with the peas and sweet clover is now being plowed under. The alfalfa and M. Red clover were seeded on Friday, the former being seeded in rows. However, heavy rains occurred Saturday night which washed a part of it out. There are several plats which have suffered from the same cause. Due to the continued wet weather it has been impossible to cultivate the alleys and in some of them the thistles are getting a bad start. Conditions throughout the county are now better than any season since 1909, so the farmers and homesteaders claim. There has been a little hail in some localities but the damage was not severe or general.

HUNTLEY: "Monday and Tuesday the alfalfa looper was very noticeable on the dry land corn. The lower leaves in many cases were eaten, but no serious damage has resulted. The past few days there has been a noticeable decrease of the looper in this locality. Barley is headed and oats are showing head. Peas are blooming. All fallow plats have been plowed the second time. Showers have been recorded on four days giving a total precipitation of .55", maximum temperature 93, minimum 46.

JUDITH BASIN: "The weather the past week has been very favorable for plant growth. All spring grains are in excellent condition. Winter wheat is stooling to such an extent that the poor stands are not noticeable. However we will not obtain the yield with winter wheat this season that we have in previous years. If the present fine weather will continue for another week, we will have all of our field work in good shape. The Annual Farmers' Day will be held at the station on July 24th. The State Press Association have decided to visit the station on that day. Special interest is being given this season towards the Farmers Day by the business men of Great Falls and Billings.

MITCHELL: "During the fore part of the week we had a general rain over this whole section. In some localities cloudbursts occurred and some damage resulted from washing out crops, while all cut alfalfa was damaged. The precipitation at the station was .56 in. Hot weather and two severe wind storms dried the soil out considerably and small grain on spring and fall plowed plats especially are suffering for moisture. Oats and Spring Wheat are in full head. Barley is just starting to head and except on fallow is making a poor showing. According to the State Entomologist the wheat stem maggot is working in the H.C. winter wheat plats. So far 20% of the heads are damaged.

NORTH PLATTE: "Considerable rain during the past week has carried small grain along in pretty good shape. Winter wheat on the table land is well headed and shows no lack of moisture. This of course is due largely to the thin stand and late maturity. Winter wheat on the bench land is ripening rapidly and has never fully recovered from previous dry weather. Spring wheat prospects are good, and oats have done well but they are thin and weedy. Barley is only fair. Corn is growing rapidly. Some of it however is rather yellow on account of the excess surface moisture. MCC corn is again presenting the same sickly condition that was so noticeable last year. Corn plats were cultivated June 18. Winter rye plats that were recently plowed under and fallow plats were disced June 20. Maximum temperature 92, minimum 55, precipitation 1.34 in.

TUCUMCARI: "The general direction of the wind during the week has been southerly, but the hourly velocity has been low, the average being 4.3 miles per hour. Maximum temperature for the week 91, minimum 59; evaporation 1.57 in., which is relatively low. Precipitation 1.04, which fell Sunday afternoon and on Monday. The rain came slow and gentle and all of it went into the ground. This precipitation was a great help to all the young crops, and especially to the varieties of millet.

"The barley and oats are ripening fast and will probably be ready to cut in about two weeks and averages from 34 to 40 inches in height. The spring wheat in the rotation and C.C. plats is beginning to turn but will not be ready to cut for about four weeks. The height of the wheat averages from 40 to 48 inches. The reports from the "Plains Country", which is 30 miles south of Tucumcari and about 200 feet higher in elevation, on the winter wheat crop is excellent. Estimated yields on this winter wheat runs from 20 to 40 bushels per acre in many of the fields. There is in the neighborhood of 10,000 to 15,000 acres in winter wheat in the "Plains Section" this season. Four New Headers were sold in Tucumcari this week, which is something out of the ordinary for this section.

"All the row crops are growing rapidly at the present time. On the plats manured and followed last season the growth of milo is very rank, and ranges from eight to ten inches taller than on plats not manured but planted on the same date. Some of the stalks of the June Corn which was planted in one of the plats on March 31st are now waist high and very rank. We have been very busy during the week getting things in shape for the picnic that will be held on the station June 23d.

WILLISTON: "Three showers during the week netted us .71" and handicapped field work considerably as a little rain now creates a strong mud. Brome grass and alfalfa have been cut this week. The rotation grains are shooting. Corn is coming slowly due to cool weather. The first deep cultivation was done this week. Our plats are easily the best in this section according to all visitors. The stand is perfect and weeds are completely overcome. A talk was given at a picnic given by four farmers' clubs. The writer has been asked to repeat at another picnic at Angie Thursday. The county alfalfa picnic will be held on Saturday on the farm of a very successful farmer and alfalfa grower. Supt. Ruzicka plans on having the annual station picnic on July 25th. Maximum temperature 82, minimum 46, precipitation .71".

WOODWARD: "Maximum temperature 100, minimum 61, precipitation 61, evaporation 2.118, av. hourly wind velocity 6.6. Weather has been generally hot and dry with the exception of Monday and Tuesday when there was a light drizzling rain. Wheat harvest throughout the county is in full swing. The hot weather just preceding ripening cut the yield somewhat but a very fair crop is being cut. The corn and sorghum is simply outdoing itself in growth as are the weeds. The necessity of cultivation at about wheat harvest time will mean a great deal of very weedy rowed crops, in fact many fields throughout the country look as though there were little hope of the crops competing with the weeds for any kind of a yield.

"Work on the station has been chiefly in thinning sorghums, plowing and cultivating. A great deal of work will be necessary even on the general fields in the way of thinning. While the stands over the country are very poor due to cold weather and washing in of lister ridges the sorghums on the station, surface planted, have generally given a stand considerably too heavy.

N O T E S:

Mr. Chilcott left for Woodward, Okla. Station on Sunday, the 21st. From there he will probably visit several of the field stations prior to attending the field meeting of the Cooperative Great Plains Association at Hays, Kas., on July 8th, 9th and 10th. After the meeting he will also visit some of the field stations before returning to Washington.

The New Sundry Bill for this fiscal year (1915) provides that no per diem shall exceed $4.00 per day, but in certain cities where the expenses are exceedingly high the field men are allowed actual expenses not to exceed $5.00 per day. These actual expenses must be supported by sub-vouchers. So letters of authorization that cover travel have this clause inserted instead of an allowance of $5.00 per diem.